AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 10, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 15-18 with the following replacement paragraph.

> Figures 1A-D show that Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) suppresses cyclin A mRNA expression. Figure 1A is a representation of an ~~authoradiograph~~ autoradiograph showing that TNF suppresses cyclin A mRNA expression. Figure 1B-D are graphs showing mRNA expression of cyclin A (Fig. 1[[B]] C), cyclin B (Fig.1[[c]] B) and cyclin D1 (Fig. 1D)

At page 12, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 1-4 with the following replacement paragraph.

> Figure 13A and B are photographs of cells transfected with wtEzrin (13A) or dnEzrin (13B)~~,~~; Figure 13C [[-D]] ~~are~~ shows photographs of mouse hindlimbs and Figure 13[[C]] D is a graph showing that dominant negative ezrin transfected HUVEC facilitates angiogenesis in ischemic hind limb.

At page 17, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 27-29 with the following replacement paragraph.

> The invention can be practiced with a wide variety of suitable mammalian ezrin sequences, particularly those of rodent (mouse) and human origin. An illustration is a human ezrin reported as GenBank accession number P15311 and shown below in Table 1 (SEQ ID NO:1):

At page 45, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 21-31 with the following replacement paragraph.

> Hindlimb ischemia was established in nude mice and HUVEC transfected with wtEzrin or dnEzrin and labeled with DiI, were injected into the ischemic muscle along with the implantation of a BrdU micropump (Azlet). As shown in Figures 13A-B, immunofluorescent staining for double BrdU/DiI positive cells in the ischemic

hindlimb tissue revealed a significantly higher number of proliferating EC in cells transfected with the dn vs. wtEzrin constructs. (dn= 84±17/mm2 vs. wt 28±13/mm2, p<.02. Cells were counted in eight randomly selected microscope fields from 2 randomly selected sections of tissue from each animal). In addition Laser Doppler imaging (Figures 13C and 13D) revealed that while hindlimb perfusion was equally reduced in both groups of animals immediately following surgical excision of the femoral artery, (~~Blue color~~ Shading denotes decreased blood flow in the operated limbs, white arrows in figure 13C and Black bars in

At page 49, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 17-24 with the following replacement paragraph.

5. **Oligonucleotides, nuclear extracts and electrophoretic ~~eletrophoretic~~ mobility shift assay (EMSA):** Following oligonucleotides representing CDE-CHR elements from cyclin A promoter (nucleotide -48/-16) were synthesized (MWG Biotech) and used in EMSA:

a) CDE-CHR (wt)- 5'-CATTTCAATAGTCGCGGGATACTTGAACTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2),

b) mCDE-CHR-5'-CATTTCAATAGTC*taat*GATACTTGAACTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:3), and c) CDE-mCHR--5'-CATTTCAATAGTCCGCGGATACT*gtcc*CTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:4). mCDE-CHR and CDE-mCHR represents oligos wherein CDE and CHR sites were mutated (italics), respectively. Nuclear proteins isolation and EMSAs were carried out as described elsewhere [15].

At page 51, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 20-25 with the following replacement paragraph.

12. Oligonucleotides, nuclear extracts and elctrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA): The following oligonucleotides representing CHR elements from cyclin A promoter (nucleotide -31/-16) were synthesized (MWG Biotech) and used in EMSA: Wildtype CHR: 5'- ATACTTGAACTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:5) and mutant CHR: 5'-ATACT*gtcc*CTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:6). Mutant CHR represents oligonucleotides wherein *italicized* nucleotides were substituted. Nuclear proteins isolation and EMSAs were carried out as described elsewhere (Kishore R. et al., *Circulation Res.* 91:307-14;2002).

At page 66, please insert the attached sequence listing and re-number the final page of the specification accordingly.